

# HERB SCHOENBOHM CHAMP OF THE AIRWAVES

By Liz Wilson

CAN YOU imagine sitting comfortably at home and talking to your friends and relatives, no matter where in the world they might be, whenever the spirit moves you? One Virgin Islander does it almost every day of the year — and thinks nothing of it.

"Hello, C.Q. Europe or Africa, this is kilowatt Victor Four Franz Zanzibar in the beautiful Virgin Islands." The voice with the call sign KV4FZ is that of the world record holder in six different categories of the amateur radio operators' competition and he is known by other radio hams all over the world, including behind the iron curtain. It is the voice of **Herb Schoenbohm**, familiar to local radio listeners for his on-the-spot coverage of St. Croix news over a St. Thomas radio station.

An answer soon comes crackling back over his short wave receiver from G3ORR who happens to be a fellow named **Alex** in northern England 45 miles from the Irish coastline and he tells us it is a foggy, miserable 39 degree wintery night. After a chat about some mutual friends in London, Herb swings the arc to pick up **Al** in Massachusetts whom he met at a C.Q. (Calling All Amateurs) Convention several years ago.

In international competition with top radio operators all over the world Herb has won 14 first place positions for the Virgin Islands, which in ham radio vernacular is considered one of the "countries" located in North America. As holder also of a First Class Radio Operator's Award, Herb has communicated with 312 countries and set a new world record in January when he again won first place in the Annual C.Q. 160 Contest which entailed competing on the most difficult band in international communication with stations on all continents.

According to Herb, the band frequency is used rarely and is close to the one over which the first transatlantic messages were sent by Marconi. One aspect of such a competition means sitting for 40 hours without a break and contacting as



many different amateurs as possible in that time.

In April he set another world record for long distance communication by establishing communications with a group of Costa Rican explorers on a small island in the Pacific. This contact gave the St. Croix radio ham the final one needed to establish the new world record — that of reaching over 100 countries on six different wave bands — a feat never accomplished prior to that time. The contact began on Morse Code and concluded in two-way voice communication. It was monitored by 50 stations in North America and makes Schoenbohm eligible for membership in the ham world's prestigious, DX Century Club.

All of this takes place in Herb's "studio" which happens to be the bedroom of the small home perched above the sea at Fort Louise Augusta which he shares with his wife, **Monica**, and three young sons. Here, surrounded by plaques, trophies, clock and a globe of the world, he fiddles with dials and buttons as he prepares to talk to a friend in Aberdan, Casablanca or Tokyo.

His equipment consists of five separate multi-band short wave receivers, two single band transmitters and a 2000 watt linear amplifier. Outside, towering 100 feet above the sea, is a large rotatable directional antenna, which Herb says is capable of sending the most powerful short wave signal in the Virgin Islands. In fact, it was because of the strong signal which he beams across the Atlantic Ocean that he was contacted by UPI to act as an official receiving station for both of **Thor Heyerdahl's** Ra expeditions.

Herb was instrumental in helping to arrange the rescue of the famed Norwegian explorer when his first raft broke up at sea 300 miles east of Barbados. Not only was he in constant radio contact with the group but he also arranged with the crew of the motor yacht *Shenandoah* whom he met at the Outrigger Restaurant in Christiansted to pick up the Heyerdahl crew at sea.

Almost more exciting for Herb was the opportunity to make international communication history when he relayed Thor Heyerdahl's famous Peace Message to U Thant, then Secretary-General of the United Nations, in which he declared that his trip, with a crew comprising men of different creeds and nationalities, proved that men of all backgrounds could co-exist peacefully under the most dire conditions.

Today Herb works as an electronics engineer for radio and TV stations in addition to usually being the first (and only) newsman to make the scene when a story breaks on St. Croix. He has been known to broadcast from helicopters, remote sand spits and the deepest jungles of Brazil and it is not surprising that he is referred to as "the Evel Knevel of the Broadcasting world." ☐

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Case No.      Official Exhibit No.

01-352      S 10

Disposition: ☒ Identified ☐

Rejected ☐ Received ☐

IN THE MATTER OF:

Herbert L. Schoenbohm

Date:      Witness:      Reporter:

S 17      S 17

No. Pages:

1

March 22, 2002

Herb Schoenbohm  
Box 4419  
Kingshilol, VI 00851

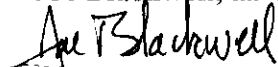
Dear Herb, ex KV4FZ,

I wish you weren't ex-KV4FZ because you have contributed a lot to ham radio, even in the absence of an FCC license. Your comments on the various email reflectors regarding topband antennas, propagation and willingness to help fellow hams is just admirable. To hang in there with us, knowing you could not operate on the bands, is commendable. Sticking with it and being a part of the community is just fantastic. I wish you luck in getting re-licensed. Contributors like you make the rest of us more knowledgeable in trying new ideas and different equipment as we pursue our hobby.

Wishing you the best.

73,

Joe Blackwell, aa4nn

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Blackwell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "B".

Manager 4<sup>th</sup> QSL Bureau, single letter prefix

Case No.      Official Exhibit No.

01-352      S11

Disposition: ☒ Identified \_\_\_\_\_  
Rejected ☐ Received \_\_\_\_\_

IN THE MATTER OF:

Herbert L. Schomborn

Date:      Witness:      Reporter:

S17      S17

No. Pages:

\_\_\_\_\_

George W. Bush, President  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

February 10, 2001

Dear Mr. President;

As the Virgin Islands National Committeewoman I urgently want to bring to your attention a situation wherein a local Republican activist and member of the GOP Territorial Committee has been vindictively persecuted by the previous administration for the past eight years. I am referring to one of your staunchest supporters in the Virgin Islands, Herbert Schoenbohm, one of our delegates to the national convention. In fact Herb was our convention transportation chairman and has been a delegate or alternate to every convention since 1980 where the outcome was a Republican presidency.

As a conservative talk show host Mr. Schoenbohm fell into disfavor with Democrats especially after he exposed the former Virgin Islands delegate to congress Ron Delugo's involvement in the House Banking and Post Office scandal. Previously running unopposed, Delugo was replaced in 1994 by Victor Frazer who immediately put Mr. Schoenbohm on his staff during his tenure in the 104<sup>th</sup> Congress. Former congressman Frazer speaks highly of Herb's public spirited devotion to both his community and his party. During your campaign Herb was heard almost daily defending your candidacy on numerous local talk shows.

Delugo, a Democrat, known for his theory of never letting a political enemy go unpunished, lobbied the administration to have Herb stripped of his radio licenses to put him off the air. What the FCC did in 1994 was deny renewal of his ham radio license (KV4FZ) which he has proudly held since 1954. Herb has been fighting the FCC in court for 8 years to retain his amateur radio privileges at an incredible expense. Last year the U.S. Supreme Court denied his request to review the FCC action.

His operation as a licensed radio amateur is clearly vital to the public welfare of the Virgin Islands. Herb presently holds a position of trust with the Virgin Islands government where he is a communications specialist with the Department of Property and Procurement. He is the site manager for the island's only government owned radio communication facility. Herb has been honored in the past by our legislature for saving lives and assisting injured people. A previous island Governor issued a proclamation that named Herb as "hero of Hurricane Hugo" for having the sole means of radio communication of getting help and directing relief after a major hurricane in 1989 destroyed most of St. Croix. The FBI also thanked Herb for helping with his ham radio to convince an airline hijacker, armed with a pyrotechnic device, to surrender peacefully.

Mr. President, Herb Schoenbohm has been treated unfairly by the FCC who since 1994 has refused to renew his hobby radio license. I personally will vouch for Mr. Schoenbohm's character and fine reputation in the community. I respectfully urge you to

Official Exhibit No.

01-352

**Identified**

Received

## ORDER OF

THE MATTER OF  
Herbert L. Schenckman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Reporter: \_\_\_\_\_

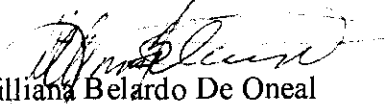
5/7 STEP

No. Pages:

26

ask your new FCC Chairman Michael Powell to review Mr. Schoenbohm's ham radio license renewal request and grant any relief consistent with his discretionary power in the matter. I will be happy to provide any additional information you or your staff may require.

Sincerely,



Lilliana Belardo De Oneal  
Virgin Islands National Committeewoman  
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY & PROCUREMENT *Schoenbohm*  
**LEGAL UNIT** *Exhibit 13*

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MEMORANDUM

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TO: PARTICIPANTS AND FRIENDS of the  
"Communication Meeting" of January 14, 2000.

FROM: Joseph Ponteen, Legal Unit/Division of Property *J 5/11/00*

RE: Appointment of Herbert Schoenbohm as "Site Coordinator"  
For the Recovery Hill Communication Site, St. Croix.

Date: May 11, 2000

As you are aware, I convened a meeting on January 14, 2000, for the purpose of bringing some rationalization to the physical and related conditions of the facility at Recovery Hill, St. Croix and exploring the planned communication system for the U.S. Virgin Islands. At that meeting, a clean up of the Recovery Hill site was scheduled for January 21, 2000, with a follow-up meeting on February 18, 2000. The clean-up was a success; thanks to all who contributed. The February 18, 2000 meeting was cancelled due to a February 22, 2000 meeting with Motorola and the Virgin Islands Police Department.

Since our last meeting, much has transpired. Bunkers have been placed at the Recovery Hill and Estate St. George's communication sites. Arrangements have been concluded with the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard regarding use of their premises at Estate St. George's and Blue Mountain. Agreements are also being finalized for the use of other communication sites. A most important aspect of these interim changes has been the appointment of Mr. Herbert Schoenbohm, by Commissioner Marc Biggs, as Site Coordinator for the Recovery Hill Communication Site.

At this time, I invite everyone to a follow-up meeting so that we can continue our discussions. In a separate correspondence, Commissioner Marc Biggs has outlined certain parameters within which we must all work, as we move into the hurricane season and plan for the years to come. To this end, I have scheduled our next meeting for **May 23, 2000, 3:00 P.M.**, at the Richmond Office of the Dept. of Property and Procurement. Please make every effort to attend or to send a representative. At, or before this meeting, I look forward to receiving the information requested by Commissioner Biggs in his letter of May 9, 2000.

I thank you for your kindest consideration and hope to see you in the near future.

Xc: Marc Biggs, Commissioner  
Herbert A.E. Grigg, Jr., Chief Operations Officer

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#3274 ESTATE RICHMOND, CHRISTIANSTED  
ST. CROIX 00820-4200 TEL: (340)773-1561  
FAX: (340)773-0986



Case No. Official Exhibit No.

01352

S13

Deposition: Identified

Ex. cited Received

THE MATTER OF:

Herbert L. Schoenberg

Date: Witness: Reporter:

5/7

SRK

No. Pages:

1

Tom Sugrue, Chief  
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

April 30, 2001

Ref.: 2000F/WTC 0100805

Dear Mr. Sugrue


As you may know, I have applied for a new amateur radio license, having lost my original license of over 40 years, as a result of the hearing process.

It has come to my attention that a number of well meaning people have attempted to assist me in getting my license reinstated by writing letters and sending email to the FCC in which they question the wisdom of the FCC's original decision denying renewal of my license. I wish to disassociate myself from any such sentiments. While I am very sorry that the FCC reached the decision that it did, I have enough faith in our judicial system to believe that the FCC made its decision in good faith, within the bounds of the discretion allowed, and based upon its review of the evidence.

Whatever the case, my whole life and my work in the community have been inextricably linked to amateur radio. It's fair to say that nothing, other than my family and my religion, has been as important to me. From the days of my youth, when I worked with my father, helping disabled people to become hams at Camp Courage that later developed into the Handi-Ham program, to my recent use of amateur radio to assist the public during hurricane emergencies, amateur radio has been my entire life. Therefore, the loss of my amateur radio license has been a terrible loss for me.

After nearly eight years of fighting to retain my license, I want to say that I have learned my lesson. If the FCC awards me a new license, I will promise never to be a problem for the FCC in the future. To that end I will go the extra mile to get along with everybody. And I will, of course, be punctilious in observing all of the FCC's rules and being completely truthful and accurate in all my dealings with the agency.

Respectfully,



Herbert Schoenbohm  
Box 4419  
Kingshill, VI 00851

Case No. Official Exhibit No.

01-352 514

Disposition: Identified ✓  
Rejected     Received    

IN THE MATTER OF:  
Herbert L. Schenck

Date: 5/1 Witness: STK Reporter:    

No. of Pages: 1

**THIRD CIRCUIT TASK FORCE ON EQUAL TREATMENT IN THE COURTS**

Schoenbohm  
Exhibit  
15

**Hon. Anne E. Thompson**  
*Chairperson*  
U.S. Courthouse, Room 4000  
402 East State Street  
Trenton, New Jersey 08608  
(609) 989-2123

**Betty Ann Izenman, Esq.**  
*Project Director*  
21613 U.S. Courthouse  
601 Market Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106  
(215) 597-0718

**Hon. Dickinson R. Debevoise**  
*Commission on Gender Co-Chair*

**Hon. M. Faith Angell**  
*Commission on Gender Co-Chair*

**Hon. Theodore A. McKee**  
*Commission on Race & Ethnicity Co-Chair*

**Lawrence Lustberg, Esq.**  
*Commission on Race & Ethnicity Co-Chair*

December 2, 1996

Mr. Herbert Schoenbohm  
Department of Property & Procurement  
Government of the Virgin Islands  
Christiansted  
St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Re: Public Hearings in the U.S. Virgin Islands on November 8, 1996

Dear Mr. Schoenbohm:

This is to express my thanks to you for your presentation at the public hearings on November 8, 1996 in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. It was tremendously impressive to listen to the thoughtful presentations of persons such as yourself who care about our courts and who are willing to assist us in assuring that we meet our goal of providing equal treatment for all. A complete transcript of the proceedings will be prepared and the entire Task Force will have the benefit of your presentation. If you wish to supplement your statement in any way, please feel free to write to the project director:

**Betty-Ann Izenman, Esquire**  
Project Director - Third Circuit Task Force  
On Equal Treatment in the Courts  
22409 U.S. Courthouse  
601 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Case No.      Official Exhibit No.

01-352      515

Disposition:    Identified ✓

Rejected \_\_\_\_\_ Received ✓

THE MATTER OF:

Herbert L. Schoenborn

Date:      Witness:      Reporter:

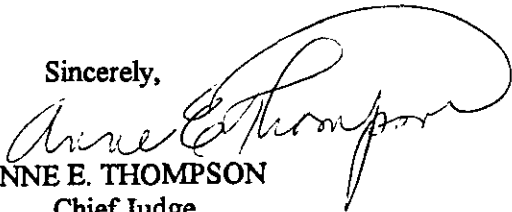
5/1      SRK

No. Pages:

2

Meantime, please know that your efforts are deeply appreciated and I sincerely thank you for your contributions to our undertaking.

Sincerely,

  
ANNE E. THOMPSON  
Chief Judge

AET:mg

cc: Betty Ann Izenman, Project Director  
Chief Judge Sloviter  
Judge Debevoise  
Judge McKee  
Magistrate Judge Angell  
Lawrence Lustberg, Esquire  
Chief Judge Moore  
Judge Finch  
Eric Moore, Esq.  
Melody Walcott, Esq.  
Adriane Dudley, Esq.

**Jon E. Knudson**  
2376 Meadowlark Rd  
Spring Hill, Fl. 34608-4635  
Home Phone 352-688-7507

February 11, 2002

Re:  
Herbert Schoenbohm  
P.O. Box 4419  
Kingshill, VI 00851

To Whom it may concern,

I am a Amateur Radio Operator, and I have personally known Herbert Schoenbohm for 16 years. I am aware of his past problems with the FCC. It is my personal opinion that Mr Schoenbohm is an asset to Amateur Radio, has always demonstrated to me a commitment to obey the FCC rules and regulations, and has been an important player when emergency traffic was needed during hurricanes which hit the Virgin Islands. I also feel that Mr Schoenbohm would not create a problem for the FCC if and when his application for a Amateur Radio License is approved.

Sincerely,



Jon E. Knudson, W1BWV

Case No. 01-352 Official Exhibit No. 516

Exhibitor: Identified  
Received ✓

DATE MATTER OF:  
Herbert L. Schaubert

Date: 5/1 Witness: STER Reporter:

No. Pages: 1



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14  
EXHIBIT  
17

you will hear from the various witnesses when they take that stand and talk to you. Evidence is also any documents, photographs, papers, et cetera, which the court admits.

Now, what is this case all about? This case is rather an unusual case, ladies and gentlemen, for it involves the stealing and the use of something you can't see. It is intangible. It involves the stealing of what's called unauthorized access codes. Telephone numbers. A series of secret numbers.

And the way in which it was possessed was in someone's head. Because that's what it is. But although it's intangible -- you can't see it, you can't hear it -- evidence will show that that device was useful, and that it had some value to it.

Now, what happened in this case is that there is a company called Calls Inc. It's a long-distance telephone company, similar to how you have SPRINT, MCI, Telephonica, all these people who are struggling to make you a customer. And Calls Inc. in 1987 operated a business in St. Thomas, and they gave out access codes. They provided a long-distance service, but their service operated a little bit differently to how the current long distance service operates.

Case No. 01-352 Official Exhibit No. S17

Identified ✓ Received withdraw

MATTER OF: Herbert L. Schoenbeck

Date: 5/7 Witness: STEP Reporter: STEP

No. Pages: 1

*[Faint, illegible handwritten notes or signatures]*



Amateur Radio Station ND5S  
Ron St.Laurent  
4168 Mariner Lane  
Okemos, MI 48864

Schoenbohm  
Exhibit 18

March 5, 2002

Herb Schoenbohm (ex-KV4FZ)  
Box 4419  
Kingshill, VI 00851

Hi Herb,

First of all, thanks for responding to my QSL request for our contact when I was on St.Maarten.

I hope that your petition with the FCC to get your license back will be successful. I'm sure you've learned your lesson.

You are certainly an asset to the ham community. I've read with great interest your technical letters on the Internet and have incorporated some of your ideas in my own operation. Not having you active on-the-air again would be a great loss.

I'll be anxious to hear the results.

Ron St.Laurent ND5S  
4168 Mariner Lane  
Okemos, MI 48864

nd5s@ix.netcom.com

Case No. Official Exhibit No.

01-352 S18

Exposition: Identified

Received

THE MATTER OF

Harbert L. Schenck

Date: Witness: Reporter:

5/7 STEK

No. Pages:

1

Herb Schoenbohm  
Box 4419  
Kingshill, VI 00851

March 12, 2002

Dear Herb,

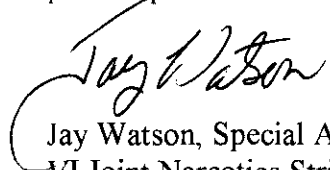
I would like to help you win the battle in your struggle with the FCC in re-gaining your amateur radio license. Perhaps this note will help.

**To Whom It May Concern:**

For over 10 years I have been a special agent the Virgin Islands Joint Narcotics Strike Force. For many years and to the present Herb Schoenbohm has used his radio talents to assist our agency in so many important ways. He has never received any compensation from our agency but has donated his time and efforts, as we require. He has helped, during difficult times, develop significant electronic measures and countermeasures in our difficult efforts to interdict drug trafficking and activity that affect our islands.

Our agency also considers Herb to be a reliable and trusted source of help and information. He has been especially helpful in communicating with pleasure yachts in the Caribbean and obtaining detailed information on identification and location of any suspicious activity. Some of the cruising yachts have been the source of drugs as well as weapons and immigrants illegally entering our Territory. Herb's information has always been reliable and has helped in the reduction of drug activity.

I hope that the Federal Communications Commission gives him favorable consideration and lenity in his quest for an amateur radio license. I am well aware of the legal problems he has faced over a decade ago. In my view, however, he has always been a person with high character traits as well as a valuable asset to this community by his public-spirited concern and demonstration of that concern for the law.



Jay Watson, Special Agent  
VI Joint Narcotics Strike Force  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 1643  
Kingshill, VI 00851  
(340) 773-5565

Case No. Official Exhibit No.

01-352 519

Identified ☒ Received ☒

MATTER OF: Herbert L. Schornbahr

Date: 5/7 Witness: STEN Reporter: STEN

No. Pages: 1



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

July 7, 2001

Schoenbohm  
Exhibit 20

RECEIVED

JUL 27 2001  
FCC MAIL ROOM  
Reply Refer to:  
2000F/WTC  
0102092

Ms. Lilliana Belardo de O'Neal  
National Committeewoman for the Virgin Islands  
P.O. Box 3383  
Christiansted, St. Croix, VI 00820

Dear Ms. O'Neal:

Thank you for your recent letter to the Vice President regarding Herbert Schoenbohm's previously held amateur radio license. The Vice President's office forwarded a copy of your letter and asked that we respond to you.

The proceeding concerning Mr. Schoenbohm's renewal application is a final action. On July 8, 1998, the Commission denied Mr. Schoenbohm's application to renew his amateur radio license. Mr. Schoenbohm's renewal application was denied because he was convicted of the felony of fraudulently using a counterfeit access device to obtain long distance telephone service and because Mr. Schoenbohm engaged in misrepresentation and lacked candor in his testimony before the Commission. On February 29, 2000, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit affirmed the Commission's action. On October 30, 2000, the United States Supreme Court denied Mr. Schoenbohm's petition for writ of certiorari.

In order to be authorized to again operate an amateur radio station, Mr. Schoenbohm would have to be granted a new license. Mr. Schoenbohm has filed an application for a new General Class amateur radio operator license with the Commission. When an individual files an application for a new amateur service license, the Commission must make a determination as to whether the individual is qualified to be a Commission licensee. In making this determination, the Commission may take into account any information it has concerning the character of the applicant. Action on Mr. Schoenbohm's application is pending at this time.

I trust that this letter is responsive to your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Kowalski  
Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Private Wireless Division  
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

CC: Herbert L. Schoenbohm  
P.O. Box 2570  
Christiansted, VI 00822

Case No.      Official Exhibit No.

01-352      S2D

Disposition: Identified ✓

Rejected     Received    

IN THE MATTER OF:

Herbert L. Schweitzer

Date:      Witness:      Reporter:

5/17      STER

No. Pages:

1



Schoenbohm  
Exhibit 21

**ARRL**

The national association for  
**AMATEUR RADIO**

<http://www.arrl.org/>

**American Radio Relay League**

225 Main Street • Newington, CT 06111-1494

*Dear ARRL Member:*

*It gives me great pleasure to send you  
your new membership card for the  
coming term.*

*On behalf of the volunteers, staff and  
Board of the ARRL, thank you for your  
support.*

*Sincerely,*

*David Sumner*

David Sumner, K1ZZ  
Executive Vice President

T2 P1

**ARRL**

The national association for  
**AMATEUR RADIO**



Herbert Schoenbohm KV4FZ  
PO Box 4419  
Kingshill VI 00851-4419



Mbr.ID 0008072699  
Valid Thru 08/31/2002

*David Sumner* K1ZZ  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Case No. Official Exhibit No.

01-352

S26

Exposition:

Identified

Received

THE MATTER OF:

Herbert L. Schoenbaum

Date:

Witness:

Reporter:

SP

SPR

No. Pages:

1